

becomes larger than the area of the bottom of the mold.

24. (New) The mold according to Claim 22, wherein the interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

25. (New) The mold according to Claim 23, wherein the interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

26. (New) A mold for producing a silicon ingot, comprising:  
a graphite or quartz mold body having a bottom and a top having an opening and having an inner wall face of a shape which defines the shape of the silicon ingot produced, the interior wall face of the mold coated with a silica layer containing at least one layer prepared by binding a fused silica powder with a particle size of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and a fine fused silica sand with a particle size of 100-300  $\mu\text{m}$  with a silica binder.

27. (New) The mold according to Claim 26, wherein the inner wall face of said mold is tapered from the bottom of the mold towards said opening so that the area of the opening becomes larger than the area of the bottom of the mold.

28. (New) The mold according to Claim 26, wherein the interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

29. (New) The mold according to Claim 27, wherein the interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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